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Coronado to the king, October 20, 1541; a translation of the important narrative of Jaramillo, one of Coronado's officers; the report of Hernando de Alvarado, also of Coronado's command, and a translation of the "Testimony concerning those who went on the expedition," which throws much light on the causes which led to these noteworthy explorations.

The memoir closes with a "List of works useful to the student of the Coronado expedition" which, while it does not presume to be a bibliography of southwestern history, is doubtless the best list of works on that section yet brought together.

Students of the most interesting corner of our country may congratulate themselves that one of their number has performed so well a task which will at last give them access to a historical treasure. It will be the fault of neither Mr. Winship nor the Bureau of Ethnology if the coming generation know no more of the foremost makers of American history than those who were responsible for the glaring omission from the Congressional Library roll of honor.

F. W. H.

The New England Primer. A History of its Origin and Development, with a reprint of the unique copy of the earliest known edition, and many fac-simile illustrations and reproductions. Edited by PAUL LEICESTER FORD. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Co. 1897. Pp. xiii, 354.)

IN this publication Mr. Ford has made an important contribution to the early history of education in America. The authorship of the *New England Primer*, the sources of its component parts, and the alterations made in various editions, are treated fully and critically in the introduction. The "Little Bible of New England," as it has been aptly called, has influenced, probably more than any other elementary book for children, the character and creed of many leading actors in our country's history. For a century and a half it was one of the first books put into the hands of children, not only in New England, but even in the Middle Colonies. It was also printed abroad, in England and in Scotland, for the use of children there. It is stated that one Boston bookseller printed in 1757 an edition of 10,000 copies, and it is known that Franklin and Hall printed over 37,000 copies at Philadelphia between 1749 and 1766, yet of all the numerous editions that were issued in New England and elsewhere scarcely a vestige can now be found. The oldest copy known dates at least thirty-seven years after the first edition appeared, and but two other editions are entered in Mr. Ford's bibliography prior to that of 1761.

There were "A B C" books and "Primers" of the Church of Rome printed even in the fifteenth century, and similar publications in English from the time of Henry VIII., but the combination of alphabet lessons and catechism had its origin among the nonconformists, the earliest instance of the kind cited by Mr. Ford being dated 1591. In New England the

early settlers had their own views on catechizing, and by 1684 a dozen different catechisms were in use in the chief towns, the best known being Cotton's *Milk for Babies* and the Assembly's *Shorter Catechism*. About the year 1685, one Benjamin Harris, a London bookseller who wrote and published ballads and popular literature, compiled and printed an elementary book for children entitled *The Protestant Tutor*, which seems to have been the earliest prototype of the New England Primer. In 1686 he came to New England, and set up a shop in Boston, where about the year 1690 he brought out the first edition of the Primer. Its success must have been immediate, for in the almanac for 1691 there was announced "A Second Impression of the New England Primer enlarged, to which is added, more Directions for Spelling; the Prayer of K. Edward the 6th. and Verses made by Mr. Rogers the Martyr, left as a Legacy to his Children." Harris returned to London in 1695, where he issued other editions of the Primer under various titles.

The basis of Mr. Ford's book is the Primer of 1727, which is here completely reproduced in facsimile from the original in the Lenox collection. Following it, as Appendix I., is a reprint, also in facsimile, of the British Museum copy of *The New English Tutor Enlarged*, printed without doubt by Harris in Queen Anne's reign (1702-1714), and which is identical in many respects with the New England Primer. Appendix II. is a facsimile reprint, from the original in the Bodleian Library, of John (or Mathew) Rogers's "Exhortation unto his Children," in its oldest printed form, as appended to John Bradford's *Complaynt of Veritie*, 1559. Then come Cotton Mather's "Views on Catechising," from his three-fold catechism of 1708; the Rev. Dorus Clarke's address on "Saying the Catechism," 1878; and several pages in facsimile of the *Holy Bible in Verse*, from the edition of 1717 in the Lenox collection. The latter publication was also from the pen of Benjamin Harris, and it is illustrated with woodcuts identical with those of the Primer. The bibliography (Appendix VI.) covers the years 1727 to 1799, and describes with care thirty-eight extant editions, most of which are known only by single copies. Following this list are extracts from advertisements and other sources referring to other editions between 1690 and 1786. The "Variorum of the New England Primer," in Appendix VII., is an analysis of the Primer's contents, indicating under each one of the parts those editions, prior to 1776, in which it may be found. Such pieces as are not found in the Primer of 1727 and in the *New English Tutor* are reprinted here. The book contains twenty-nine plates in heliotype and facsimile, among which are reproductions of the earliest advertisement of the Primer in 1690, the fragment of an edition printed by William Bradford between 1688 and 1700, and several title-pages, frontispieces and alphabet cuts. A good index closes the volume.

It will thus be seen that Mr. Ford has spared no pains in bringing together whatever material would help to illustrate the subject. The publisher has been equally successful in the style and make-up of the book.

WILBERFORCE EAMES.